

What is claimed is:

1. A device, for inspecting a cargo container with penetrating radiation, the device comprising:

- (a.) a bed moveable along a first direction having a horizontal component;
- (b.) a source of penetrating radiation, mounted on the bed, for providing a beam having a predominantly horizontal component;
- (c.) a motorized drive for moving the bed in the first direction;
- (d.) at least one detector mounted on the bed, each detector having a signal output;

so that the beam is caused to traverse the cargo container as the bed is moved and each detector provides a signal for characterizing the cargo container and any contents of the cargo container.